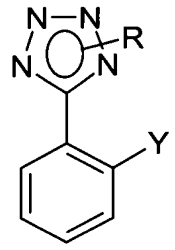
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

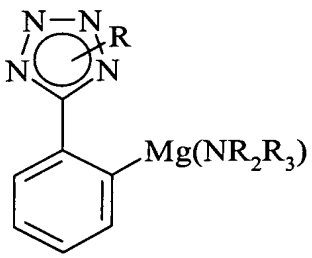
1. (withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

in which R is hydrogen, a protecting group or a salifying group and Y is a $-B(OR_4)_2$ group, wherein each R_4 is independently hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or a -ZnX group, wherein X is a halogen atom selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine;

which comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein R is as defined above and R_2 and R_3, which can be the same or different, are straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, trialkylsilyl, or R_2 and R_3, taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

either with a compound of formula (VI)

$$ZnX_2 \quad (VI)$$

wherein X is as defined above;

or with a compound of formula (VIa)

$$B(OR'_4)_3 \quad (VIa)$$

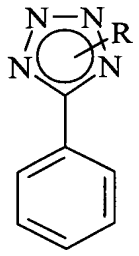
wherein each R'_4 is independently C_1-C_6 alkyl, and, if desired, the subsequent hydrolysis of the resulting boranic ester of formula (II).

2. (withdrawn) A process as claimed in claim 1, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.0 to 5.0.

3. (withdrawn) A process as claimed in claim 2, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.1 to 3.0.

4. (withdrawn) A process as claimed in claim 1, in which the reaction is carried out in an ether solvent or mixtures thereof with an apolar solvent, at a temperature ranging from 20°C to the reflux temperature.

5. (withdrawn) A process as claimed in claim 1, in which a compound of formula (V) is prepared by reaction between a compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein R is as defined in claim 1,

with a compound of formula (VII)

$$Mg(NR_2R_3)_2 \quad (VII)$$

wherein R_2 and R_3 are as defined in claim 1.

6. (withdrawn) A process as claimed in claim 5, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VII) to a compound of formula (III) ranges from 0.5 to 3.0.

7. (withdrawn) A process as claimed in claim 6, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VII) to a compound of formula (III) ranges from 1.0 to 2.0.

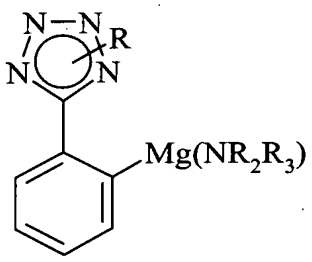
8. (withdrawn) A compound of formula (II), as defined in claim 1, wherein R is a 1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl group and Y is a $-B(OR_4)_2$ group, in which R_4 is as defined in claim 1.

9. (withdrawn) A compound as defined in claim 8, wherein each R_4 is independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or isopropyl.

10. (withdrawn) A compound as defined in claim 8, which is:

- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid;
- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid methyl ester; or
- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid isopropyl ester.

11. (withdrawn) A compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein R, R_2 and R_3 are as defined in claim 1.

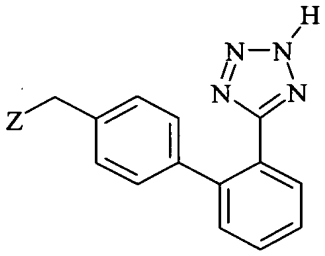
12. (original) A compound as defined in claim 11, which is:

- 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide;
- 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide; or
- 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide.

13. (currently amended) ~~The use of~~ A method of using a compound of formula (V)~~, as defined in claim 11,~~ for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), comprising:

preparing the compound of formula (I) from a compound of formula (V), wherein,

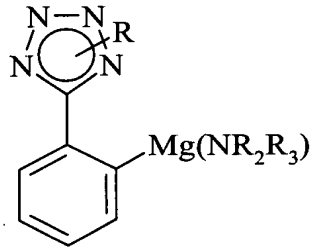
the compound of formula (I) is



(I)

~~in which~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where Z is one of (i) an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom~~; or~~ and (ii) an amido residue~~; or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~,

the compound of formula (V) is



(V)

where R is hydrogen, a protecting group or a salifying group, and R_2 and R_3, are one of (i) the same or different, are straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, trialkylsilyl, and (ii) taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur.

14. (currently amended) The ~~use as claimed in~~ method according to claim 13, wherein in the compound of formula (I) the residue Z is selected from:

2-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethyl-imidazol-1-yl;

2-ethoxy-7-carboxy-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl;

2-butyl-1,3-diaza-spiro[4,4]non-1-en-4-on-3-yl; and

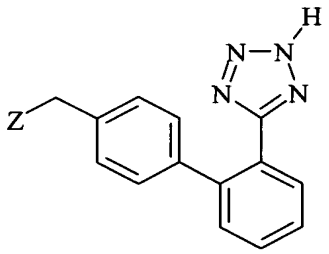
(S)-N-(1-carboxy-2-methylprop-1-yl)-N-pentanoylamino.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) ~~The use of~~ A method of using a compound of formula (V)~~, as defined in claim 12,~~ for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), comprising:

preparing the compound of formula (I) from a compound of formula (V), wherein,

the compound of formula (I) is



(I)

~~in which~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where Z is one of(i)an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom~~; or~~ and (ii)

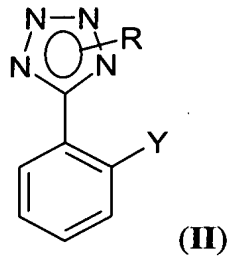
an amido residue~~;or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~, and

the compound of formula (V) is selected from the group consisting of:

2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide, and 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide.

17. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein,

the compound (I) is produced from a compound formula (II)



(II)

where R is hydrogen, a protecting group or a salifying group, Y is one of (i) a -ZnX group and (ii) a $-B(OR_4)_2$, X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine, and each R'_4 is independently C_1-C_6 alkyl, and

the compound of formula (II) is formed reacting formula (V) reacting with one of(i) a compound of formula (VI)

ZnX_2 (VI)

where X is a halogen atom selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine,

and (ii) a compound of formula (VIa)

$$B(OR'_4)_3 \quad (VIa)$$

where each R'_4 is independently C_1-C_6 alkyl, and, optionally, the subsequent hydrolysis of the resulting boranic ester of formula (II).

18. (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.0 to 5.0.

19. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.1 to 3.0.

20. (withdrawn) (new) The method according to claim 13, wherein the reaction is carried out in an ether solvent or mixtures thereof with an apolar solvent, at a temperature ranging from 20°C to the reflux temperature.